

crime is actually gauged an absolute calculation, pressed in hard dollars, England that the sanguine always and Telegraphs in "drawn in their horns" of better times; and that sanguine of professional MacDonald Stevenson—the times to be "utterly any present attempt to involving a large outlay a considerable amount of other trouble. We cer- American cousins with accomplishing much that ceases to our slower pulse, on ignore the "main" are doing so in this will be inevitable.

NEW HOTEL.

Learn that, despite the fact that the project has become a fact. The magnificent edifice known by that name, to be formally to be proximo by His Ex-Governor, assisted by agents, and we sincerely and prosperous career. So he been said about the "we could say but little readers are not already" may however mention (Thurston's) best of erection and occupy is one of the finest in which of the furniture which under the care of the engaged, Mr. Duggan, in Canton and will shortly

fixed on for board and individual is we learn li—not an exorbitant rates ruling in Hongkong 38 rooms to let, 17 have been by permanent res- served for casual visitors (somewhat too small, appears to us) and 11 still permanent engagement, proposed to inaugurate the building, the founders of the present English we not heard what progress in carrying out the idea. prospects of the new edifice cheering, and we directors and shareholders in no small attraction to or convenience to single

notice to correspondents contemporary of this "paper referred to" is "this" would be glad to insert the "Visitor to Tientsin," if it has found it best to avoid importance to objectionable after referred to by noticing

that the old feud between should be still kept up, it deprives us of what a certain "has to say about" place. Surely the "matter" might have been what was interesting and preserved.

LOCAL.

"Papers on China" will now. It contains the whole of the notes on South- and other valuable extracts

ent of a very pleasing element in the German Theatre. It will include vocal and music, and the exhibition of illustrations of scenes "Wag and the Indian Musical portion of the entertain- ing, unusually good. The Brothers Kohler on the waltz listening to, and we to the judgment of the evening, which was done, and we confidently is a favourable one.

BY-DEBT & CO.

creditors in re the Bank- & Co. was held in the Supreme Court, this Whyte, instructed by Mr. for the petitioning credit- other creditor attended, and a decree of adjournment, which was done, and the creditors represented, meeting fixed for Monday

MR. JAMES CONNOR.

smaller audiences we have longed, was that of last concert given by Signor centre limit, and the con- effect upon the performance. The programme was it effectively rendered, and mainly merited better sup- port audience was as low in of approval as it was small an assemblage by- tion of the second act from "brought the performance by acclamation. A gen- really well known to Hong- quainted at the piano, and singers in this usual high

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not comprehend many cases—Mr. May was on the bench. Recently, now proprietor of a shop, was charged with a deed upon the person of a Davis. Evidence was pro- of the case, and the pro- of the case, and the pro-

In the deplorably "battered" state which he did; but in addition to Roach's guilt being proven, the complexity of his barman became likewise very clear. His weakness and that, instead of ill-temperament, in a disagreeable manner, even though he had been bolder and in liquor; Roach ought to have known better, and called in a constable. He would find him 60 millions.

FIRE.

An alarm of fire was conveyed to the Police Station last night, and the engine was got in readiness and forwarded at once to the scene—No. 28 Queen's Road West. A China house built on the scene of the great fire about the end of 1866. It was found, however, that the flames had been subdued by means of buckets of water from the main, ere the engine arrived. The floor was charred to a cinder, and the fire might have been of a very serious nature had it not been for the promptitude displayed by those concerned.

Our Whampoa correspondent writes, under February 10th.—In addition to the remarks which I made in my letter of yesterday regarding the Governor Cheong, it remains for me to observe, that no Governor of Canton, since the reign of Emperor K'ang-Hsi, who avowed the sceptre over these domains nearly 100 years ago, has been so much honoured by the citizens of Canton as the worthy man under notice. But not only the Cantonese are manifesting such extreme devotion; from all parts of the surrounding districts the people are hastening to the provincial capital to present their gifts and tokens of regard to him: whose benign sway they have enjoyed the blessings of peace, happiness and plenty. Cheong is undoubtedly a favourite of the people, whereas the Mandarins do not regard him in the same friendly light. He is not, indeed, no wonder as he has during his tenure of office called many of the latter to account for their malpractices. The yamun of Cheong has been thrown open for several days past to the public, and the people are thronging its Courts to evince their good feeling towards the occupant thereof. It is very much to be feared that the successor of this extraordinary man will prove one of the old ordinary class of mandarins, and by his acts set aside the great work of reformation which Cheong has effected. And with this unpleasant reflection I would, in conclusion, say a few words touching matters at this port. Calling a few days back on board the Customs hulk, I noticed that the foreign employees of that establishment were dressed in uniform, consisting of a neat dark blue coat with brass buttons, and vest, and pants to match, which give them decidedly the appearance of naval officers. If this "maphoriosis" does not particular good, it certainly does no harm. The F. & O. steamer Malacca arrived here this afternoon.

Our Canton correspondent writes:—Ming-qua, familiarly called by his countrymen "Cheong," and so well known to those who reside at, and are connected with the old, old factory, is no more. As he has been known to have followed the profession of a merchant, consequently he had not the mortification of reflecting that he does forth less brilliantly than the other wallies of the day. He aspired to the higher dignity of a titular mandarin, owner of landed property, and money-lender. In his first mentioned capacity he has rendered some service to the state. On one occasion he negotiated for the equipment of a force by the company of Americans who were disposed to do a little business in the filibustering line, with the object of repossessing, as a preliminary step, the Blenheim Beach Fort near Whampoa from the rebels who occupied it in 1854-55. Just as the force was ready to begin operations the then American Minister, Mr. McLean, appeared on the scene and quashed the whole thing by prohibiting his intervention from carrying the scheme into execution. But a considerable sum of money had already been expended in the purchase of canvas, &c., Mingqua, at the importunities of the Vice-roy, played an attack upon the rebels, who held possession of Patahan. To this end he equipped a fleet of junks and led it, but the "patriots" were more than a match for him, and our disappointed friend escaped his life by a clever ruse in passing himself off as the servant-boy Achua to one of the foreigners, whom the rebels had captured. (Yide China Mail of March, 1855.) Cheong Yek Li, to whom *Yue Populi* accorded the surname of "Jus," has not yet quitted these shores. His Excellency is said to have directed the erection of a mat building on the spot where the bow and arrow practice is conducted, in order to "defend his" old and by way of peace-offering to that with a sincerity of heart he may take leave of his countrymen by exchanging with them a cordial *Kongkee*. The temple of Horrors is spoken of as more likely to be the depository of a portion of the Chinamen to be left behind by Cheong, inasmuch as it is more a place of public resort than other temples.

It is proposed that a spring race meeting be held next month, but it is to be an orthodox one, consisting of Canton-owned ponies only. After the chaos of last evening we are having the bracing weather of the season. Canton, 12th E-February, 1868.

SHERIFF'S COURT, HONGKONG.

(Before M. S. TOMLINSON, Esq., and a Jury.)

WIT OF EXIST.—CHOW & A. E. VAUGHAN'S Personal Estate.

Feb. 13, 1868.

This was an inquisition by the Sheriff and a Jury to inquire into the property of the Defendant, and under a writ of return. Mr. Whyte, instructed by Mr. Gaskell, appeared for Mr. Martz, administrator in law of the estate of Mr. Hazeland, Crown collector, appeared on behalf of the Crown; and Mr. Sharp appeared for defendant. The following Juries were sworn:—Messrs D. R. Crawford, Thos. Hart, J. Macdonald, G. de la Roca, J. John Paterson, J. A. Gomes, and J. O. Fuschling. Mr. Whyte explained to the Jury the circumstances of the inquisition and the necessity for their services being called in by the Sheriff. He explained that a writ of return (which was a writ of execution) had been granted to the Crown, and it was the duty of the Jury now to inquire into the property of the Defendant, and to meet such writ. On 10th November, 1866, Mr. Gaskell, leaving a will which was un- signed, and Mr. Vaucher, who was the executor of the estate. For the

proper and just administration of the said estate Mr. Vaucher had to enter into a bond of \$50,000 to the Crown; and it was for a breach of his bond that the writ of extent had been issued. As the Jury were aware, Mr. Vaucher had got into difficulties, and had been adjudicated a bankrupt.

Mr. Vaucher was then called, and, having been sworn, and having referred to the schedule in his bankruptcy, said—On or about the 6th of September, 1867, I had two Marine lots, Nos. 113 and 114, and seven godowns built thereon, of 10,000 tons capacity, which were valued at about \$25,000, and cost me \$40,000; they were mortgaged to Mr. Jukes on 30th June 1866 for \$18,000. I had also in my possession Inland lot 519, on which I situated my house (Beauregard), which is valued at \$18,000, and mortgaged for \$12,500. I was also the owner of two lots, 622 and 649, on the top of the Peak, value nothing, or say \$100, which were let upon ten years but at no rental whatever. I valued the furniture at Beauregard at \$2,000, while at my own and wife's possession would be about \$250. I had also property in shares to the following amount—100 shares in the Hongkong and Canton Steam-boat Company, 40 shares in the Hotel Company, 2 shares in the China Traders Company, 2 shares in the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, 1 share in the Hongkong Marine Insurance Company, and 1 share in the City Hall;—all of which were held by the Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris. One share in the Canton Insurance Company which I owned was then held by Mr. Jukes. I had in godown a quantity of wines for sale for the benefit of consignees. The firm of Vaucher & Co. held, at the same time, Lot 469, with a house thereon, which was valued at \$10,000; Lot 470, valued at \$30,497; Lot 463, which cost \$558.54; and Lot 743, which was purchased by the firm for \$500.54. These lots, however, were mortgaged to Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co., for \$10,000; but that firm now draws \$200 a month from the Mint for rental of the house, which reduced the mortgage to \$8,000.

Mr. Whyte then informed the Jury that he would now examine the defendant as to what debts were due to him by other parties, as the Crown would also seize such debts in execution of the writ.

Defendants' examination continued.—The amount actually due on account current by Mr. David, formerly trading under the style of Marsh & Co., is \$890.21; but he had accepted a bill for \$400 for Mr. David, which had been dishonoured; and other bills on account of the purchase of the business from Henry Marsh amounted to \$12,497; in all \$20,388.21 about. The defendant, by arbitration in the case against Shiraz & Co., amounted to \$5,000; subject to deductions.

Fred. S. Huffman, deputy registrar and official assignee, sworn, stated that the total amount which he had received as assets realized was \$5,370, from which a sum of \$2,938 had to be deducted on account of consignees' invoices for goods sold, leaving \$2,432 of this amount \$1,700 had been received from sale of the house furniture, and \$732 from sale of office fixtures, &c. A sum of \$1,238 had been repaid by Mr. Jukes, after meeting the mortgage on Lots 113 and 114.

Mr. Whyte suggested that Mr. Huffman should be requested to draw out a memorandum showing the amount of realized assets, which was agreed to.

The Sheriff then said that he would adjourn the inquisition until Monday, when the statements would be complete for the Jury's consideration.

TRANS-HIMALAYAN EXPLORATIONS.

(Friend of India, Jan. 23.)

For many years British officers have been debauched from exploring more than a few marches beyond the frontier, solely from the anxiety of Government to avoid political complications. Captain Montgomerie, R. E. himself one of the most successful explorers of recent times, has initiated a method of enquiry by means of Asiatics, the results of which, though not comparable with what might be expected from European science, are likely to supply us with an intelligible account of regions hitherto unknown, and to give a close approximation to the position and height of all important places in those regions. The latest explorations form the ground-work of the geography of the whole of Great Tibet, by means of a route survey carried right through the Lhasa territories, running along the whole of the upper course of the great Brahmaputra river. In itself this is a very large contribution to Geography and forms a basis for further extension.

The plan proposed by Captain Montgomerie, so long ago, 1861, is to employ such Asiatics as are in the habit of travelling, for trade or other purposes, into the countries which it is intended to explore, either by training them or by sending trained men of the same caste with them. When employed in surveying on our extreme northern frontier beyond Kashmir, Captain Montgomerie decided upon making the first attempt in Eastern Turkistan. The results, which were laid before the Royal Geographical Society in 1866, comprised a rough route survey from the Karakorum Pass to Yarkand, by which the position of the latter city was fixed with considerable accuracy and its height above the sea was for the first time determined. The survey showed that the position of Yarkand is determined by the Jesuit missionaries, was correct in latitude, though very erroneous as to longitude, the height of Yarkand proved to be about 4,000 feet above the sea, thus showing that the great depression in the centre of Asia, called Lake Lop or Desert of Gobi, into which the Yarkand and other rivers empty themselves, is a considerably above the level of the sea. This first attempt seems to have been so encouraging that it was decided to make another on a more extensive scale. The native employed, a semi-Tibetan Pundit, appears to have been more thoroughly trained than the Mahomedan dispatched on the first expedition. The first attempt was designed to satisfy geographical curiosity in the direction of Central Asia. The second has been confined to Great Tibet, to what may now be called the early hunting ground of Geographers. That vast region north-east of the Himalayas, lying between Turkistan on the one side and China proper on the other, is now the only portion of the globe not explored by Europeans. Though the maps of Great Tibet have been minutely showing a considerable amount of detail, no one has ever been able to decide what might be tolerably accurate and what is altogether imaginary in them.

Some Geographers were of opinion that the positions of the various places were relatively correct in longitude, though erroneous in the absolute longitude. The latitudes were supposed to be tolerably accurate. These impressions were derived from the mistaken supposition, that the Jesuit missionaries had visited all the larger towns in Great Tibet. On the other hand the some Geographers, taking Turner's route as a basis, found the latitudes of Teshoolombou or Shigatse and Lhasa as given in the maps of the Lamas so widely different, that the map north of the Himalayas, the best left by them almost a complete blank. Neither view is correct. So far as Great Tibet is concerned it is necessary only to examine Du Halde's atlas, to see that the whole of the maps of that country was derived from the Lamas and not from the Jesuits' own work. Some French Geographers, taking the first view, have adopted the Lamas' work. Klaproth took the other view, and for the reason of his own came to the conclusion that the Narichu, or the great river which flows from near the Manasarovar Lake to Lhasa, was the upper portion of the Irrawaddy, an idea which Wilcox during his exploration east of Assam proved to be quite untenable.

The results of the present exploration prove that the relative and the absolute positions of the towns in Great Tibet, as given in the Lamas' maps, were equally wrong, but that the sketch of the main features may in a general way be right. The course of the upper portion of the Brahmaputra has been roughly defined within very narrow limits. The position and height of Lhasa, the capital of Shigatse, Gyantse and other important places, have been accurately determined. The great Tibetan road from Lhasa to Gartok has been surveyed throughout. The celebrated Kato or Yandokoko Lake has likewise been surveyed. We have at last got a tolerably accurate map of the greater portion of this curious Lake which, appearing as a ring round a compass, has been the wonder of all Geographers. By this route survey the general outlines of the inhabited part of Great Tibet have been determined, and a basis has been formed for still further explorations to the north, into the vast unknown regions lying between the Lhasa territories and the margin of the Great Desert which stretches from Assam and Lake Lop to China proper. The survey operations were of the simplest and the equipment consisted of a compass, a string of beads, a sextant, and a thermometer with a watch. The sextant determined the latitudes, the compass gave the direction, the distance and the thermometer the heights. The native surveyors, semi-Tibetans by birth, carried the Tibetan prayer-wheel in their hand and the rosary in their sleeves. The former was useful for concealing a small compass, and also the fact that the survey was made on long strips of paper. The rosary preventing the error of counting the paces. The ingenious adaptation of their ritualistic instruments would, we are afraid, horrify all devout Buddhists. The astronomical observations were made in the face of considerable obstacles on the march, but at the higher places where the Pundit halted there appeared to have been no great difficulty in taking a large number of observations.

The determination of the heights of the trans-Himalayan regions is a matter of much interest. Though the results are only approximate, they are sufficiently accurate to prove that the height of the mountain range, as far as the Pundit went, showed no signs of diminution. On the contrary, north of the Brahmaputra river the mountains evidently rise again, and the northern tributaries of the river may be in a range as high or higher than that of the Himalayas. Nothing strikes us more than the distance to which this great elevation of the Himalaya extends at right angles to the axis on the range, that is even on the shortest line across the mountains. From the Punjab to Yarkand it was shown, by the first exploration, that the mountains were 40 miles in breadth. This last exploration points to a still greater breadth from Nepal to the north or north-east. With the exception of Turner's route to Teshoolombou, we have no reliable geographical information regarding these Trans-Himalayan regions. On examining the *B-reaches* and *Journal* of the Bengal Asiatic Society we find only a rough itinerary, by a native, which Mr. Hodgson extracted when in Nepal. This itinerary appears to have been made by the collector of the Jangchak to Lhasa, and in some points confirms the Pundit's evidence. Mr. Hodgson's informant writes of the great waves of the river at Chuk-samchou, where the Pundit and his companions were nearly swamped; he notes the quantities of fish in the Yandokoko Lake and the stone bridge at Telung. No farther reference is made to the Lhasa territories except by Dr. Campbell of Darjeeling, who collected some notes on the trade between Teshoolombou and Lhasa; but nowhere have we even a native itinerary of the route between the Manasarovar lake and Teshoolombou. In the only reference to that portion of the route is by Piro Desideri, who passed from Latak to Lhasa by a route of extreme elevation, which we suppose to have been the same as that of the Pundit. The Royal Geographical Society in 1866, comprised a rough route survey from the Karakorum Pass to Yarkand, by which the position of the latter city was fixed with considerable accuracy and its height above the sea was for the first time determined. The survey showed that the position of Yarkand is determined by the Jesuit missionaries, was correct in latitude, though very erroneous as to longitude, the height of Yarkand proved to be about 4,000 feet above the sea, thus showing that the great depression in the centre of Asia, called Lake Lop or Desert of Gobi, into which the Yarkand and other rivers empty themselves, is a considerably above the level of the sea. This first attempt seems to have been so encouraging that it was decided to make another on a more extensive scale. The native employed, a semi-Tibetan Pundit, appears to have been more thoroughly trained than the Mahomedan dispatched on the first expedition. The first attempt was designed to satisfy geographical curiosity in the direction of Central Asia. The second has been confined to Great Tibet, to what may now be called the early hunting ground of Geographers. That vast region north-east of the Himalayas, lying between Turkistan on the one side and China proper on the other, is now the only portion of the globe not explored by Europeans. Though the maps of Great Tibet have been minutely showing a considerable amount of detail, no one has ever been able to decide what might be tolerably accurate and what is altogether imaginary in them.

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ation, and the amount of work it involved and the patience required can hardly be appreciated without bearing this in mind. The explorations now completed form a very large contribution to the geography of the vast unknown regions beyond the Himalayas. When we see on the map which accompanies the Report the great tributaries which join the Brahmaputra from the north, we cannot help wishing that the explorations may be pushed up to the sources of these tributaries, and beyond them across and north of their watershed into what must be the bosom or dome of Asia, the highest portion of the globe. The results of this exploration are highly creditable to the Pundit and show that he has done ample justice to the training of Captain Montgomerie, who has a second time rendered services to science of the very highest value. We trust that he will be allowed to extend these Trans-Himalayan explorations on all sides, until we have an intelligible account of the unknown territory in that vast region which lies between Russia, Hindustan and China proper.

THE EASTERN GARRISONS.

(Madras Athenaeum.)

There is no doubt that in future, and possibly, early days, India will be called upon, from time to time, to supply native troops for service in all regions east of the Cape of Good Hope. Everything therefore should be so arranged as to avoid all possible chances of refusal, on the part of Sepoys, to go on Foreign service when required. The "Special Correspondent" of the Times informs his readers in mentioning the constitution of the Abyssinian force that Bengal sends two regiments of Light Cavalry (10th and 12th) one regiment (23rd) of Pioneers, three companies of Sappers, one battery (8. 25th) of Artillery, and one regiment (which regiment is not yet decided) of Native Infantry. This might lead persons to suppose that so many regiments had volunteered that the Government did not know which one to select, and not to cause ill feeling amongst the remainder. This however is far from being the case. The fact is, Bengal regiments will not go on foreign service. Sikhs, Punjabs and Belooches will go anywhere when there is fighting, but the Pandys is a very different creature, his caste is a fearful stumbling block to strict discipline and unqualified obediences of orders. It must not be supposed that Madras regiments have been in the habit of going on Foreign Service from time immemorial. When Madras troops were sent to Batavia, the Island of Bourbon and Java, Volunteers were called for from the whole Army. These men were promised that their wives and families would be provided for in the event of their death. They were formed into a Regiment for the occasion, and on their return were treated like heroes, on landing they were decorated with garlands and made much of, but what they prized most was a silver badge engraved with the words "Volunteer for Foreign Service" which they had the privilege of wearing on their left arm over their uniform. On rejoining their own Corps, their accounts of the wonders they had seen and the trifling hardships they had experienced, only served to create a desire in the breasts of the men to follow in their steps, so that on the next occasion when volunteers were required they came in by hundreds instead of by tens. This system of naming Foreign service Regiments continued, we believe, until the first Burmese War, on which occasion there was no difficulty in obtaining Regiments in their entirety for Foreign service. Had some such system as this been adopted in the Bengal Army years ago, we should not have heard of "indecorous" on the part of the Bengal Government in selecting a Regiment for service in Abyssinia.

DEAN SWIFT DRAMATIZED.

A place brought out a few days ago in Paris is a remarkable illustration of the state of public morality and taste in France. The theatre which had the honour of producing the play was Le Chatelet, a spectacle which has obtained a name for such spectacular extravaganzas as "Redoumings" and "Cendrillon." It is emphatically the "people's theatre." It was built expressly for their enjoyment, and it is so capacious that it has no less than 2,700 reserved places—nearly twice as many as any other theatre in Paris can boast of possessing. The prices are considerably lower than elsewhere, and if a gamine can beg, borrow, or scrounge halfpenny, he may have access to his earthly paradise. It is emphatically for the lower orders that a paternal Government has provided the dramatic entertainment of the Chatelet. But the places destined for the *quatre-vingt-trois* of Paris, and as much as fifty francs have been asked and obtained for a stall of choice, the normal price of which is only four. Liberty rings among in this theatre, and, contrary to Parisian usage, ladies are admitted to the stalls. At the second representation many ladies of fashion, including the Princess Metternich and the Duchesse de Morvry, were present. Let us see the sort of exhibition which the *grande dame* who gives 200 francs for a loge and the *bourgeoise* who pays 15 francs are equally anxious to witness. The subject, "Le Pays des Chevaliers," is surely harmless enough. It has formed the subject of numerous pantomimes, and the Chatelet piece is, in fact, exactly like one of our Christmas introductions. The only difference in the piece itself is that the story is complicated, with the object of making the performance last five hours. Gulliver is shipwrecked among icebergs, and he is then transported to the Fingian Island, to the "pays des chevaliers" to the country of Lilliput, and to the home of the Brobdingnagian giants. The army of marionettes that do duty for Lilliputians are wonderfully well managed, and an immensely fat woman who personates a Brobdingnagian baby is amusing, if rather coarse. But it is the failure of the piece which form the great attraction, and paradoxical as it may seem, it is his scanty costumes that have drawn so largely on the treasury of the theatre. No less than three hundred thousand francs have been expended on this one piece, and yet the superficial air of the dresses must be ludicrously small in proportion to the bodies which they do not cover. The Lilliputians of the "pays des chevaliers" are represented by large-limbed women who wear a *hotte* head, a huge tail, a drenched dress, as tight as possible, to the figure, and holding their skirts in the manner of a *Maquise* was tolerably ample in comparison with this, and in all the three ballets, whether the figures appear as butterflies or jewels, the one single object has been to

reduce the clothing to a minimum. In a "dances des oiseaux" they remind one irresistibly of the saying, "as naked as robins." It is true that their head-dresses and waistbands glitter with jewellery, but quality in this case scarcely makes up for the lack of quantity. As to the mere dialogue of the piece, it is beneath contempt. The songs are crowded with double entendres, and the actors, including Schneider, pointed the jokes by gestures yet more significant. When the pines of the Queen of the Lilliputians are on fire Gulliver rushes off to extinguish it, and a drop-scene exhibits him standing over the blazing pile. And this is the entertainment provided for the people of France!—*Full Mail Gazette*.

EXTRACT OF PUNCH.

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN.—"Persons" may be forbidden to approach the hustings, but the dignon cannot be kept away from the poll.

A THOUGHT IN CHANCERY LANE.—The Statutes are said to be "at large" because they are so difficult to apprehend.

MILITARY TRIMMINGS.—Horse Guards' reprimanda.

PARENTAL ADVICE.—My son, if with a fool you dine Take heed you drink but little wine: Nine times in ten you'll find, be sure, Though he be rich, his wine is poor.

CIVIL SERVANTS OF THE CROWN.—Obligations.

THE LATEST CRITICISM.—There is one word in our language which, with a slight alteration, expresses all that can possibly be said in praise of a certain class of Tennyson's poems, which are simply—Idylls.

ADAPTATION OF LEGAL MAXIMS TO SOCIETY (By a Matchmaking Mother).—"Position is nine points of the law."

MATIMONY MADE EASY.—A young lady is in quest of a husband. She is intelligent, amiable, and accomplished, but not pretty. She advertises for a blind man.

THE FORCE OF HABIT.—A literary friend was overheard the other evening requesting his landlady to put clean proof sheets on his bed.

THE Anti-Ritualists object to the existence of the office in Her Majesty's Household known as *Groom of the Stole*. Also naturally to the *Chief of Stole*.

THE DEBTOR'S PARADISE.—A condition.

"MEN WHO HAVE BEEN"—Aeronauts.

FLOATING CAPITAL.—Venues.

NOT GENERALLY KNOWN.—The King of Abyssinia is an Irishman and a Fenian; his assumed name is Theodoros, his real The O'Dorus. The quantity being wrongly taken (so to speak) "a reduction being made on taking any quantity" we shall send his name in to stink in English nostrils as *The O'Dorus*.

SHERWIN'S APPOINTMENT TO THE BLACK COUNTRY.—A Mission to the Niger.

A WILL CASE.

The Civil Tribunal of Pontoise has just given judgment in a most romantic and mysterious will case. The subject of litigation was the right to a sum of £20,000, not the interest of the case consists in the extraordinary disclosures made in court, a supposed murder and a suicide being among the salient features. The following are the details of the affair, which reads more like a penny romance than a chapter from life:—About a twelvemonth ago the body of a respectably-dressed man was discovered in the Seine. From papers found on the corpse it appeared that deceased's name was Jourdan, and that he lived at Montmorency. An inquiry was instituted, and it was discovered that deceased resided in a small chateau, which he had built originally for himself. Although young he lived with an old woman in a most retired state. Neither the one nor the other was ever seen to receive any friends, and none of the neighbours could give information concerning the interior of the chateau. The authorities found the chateau closed on all sides, the shutters being fastened, and the door bolted. Since the finding of the body of Jourdan in the Seine, the old man and not made her appearance. The doors were consequently broken open, and in a room on the first floor, situated on the ground, was found the body of the old woman; death had already taken place several days. Had a crime been committed? No article of value was missing, and the doctors believed that she had died a natural death. The strange coincidence of the two deaths remains a mystery. No one can tell. From the inquiries set on foot it was soon discovered that the president of Jourdan was none other than M. Jourdan, belonging to a rich and highly-respectable family in Paris. In 1847 he lost his mother; he was then only 14 years old. Among his father's servants was an Alsatian named Marguerite Schneider, who, it appears, had an extraordinary influence over the mind of young Tomlet, which the plaintiff alleges, was of a rather idiotic turn. In 1855 his father died, and on the next day young Tomlet, who had inherited his father's fortune, disappeared with Marguerite Schneider, leaving a letter behind stating that he had gone to America. It appears, however, that the ill-sorted couple took a house in a most retired spot in the suburbs of Paris, where Marguerite Schneider passed under the name of Madame Jourdan, Tomlet as her nephew. Here they led a most strange existence. No one was ever allowed to go beyond the garden gate, the shutters of the house were always closed, and immense dogs were stationed in the garden to prevent the approach of any intruder. At length sinister rumours were spread about concerning these mysterious hermits, and the curiosity of the neighbours was completely won, when, on one fine morning, they discovered that the mysterious aunt and her nephew had disappeared without leaving any trace of their flight. They next turned up at Montmorency, where, as already stated, they lived a similar life, under the name of Jourdan. But the turning point in the story is yet to be told. A few months ago Tomlet fell violently in love with a young lady of good family, at Montmorency. He proposed for her hand, but the parents finding that they had to do with such a strange idiotic character, refused their consent. What passed between Marguerite Schneider and her pretended nephew at this period is not known. All that is known is that Tomlet was found dead in the Seine, and Marguerite Schneider dead in her room. A will was discovered, by which Tomlet, a few weeks after his father's death, had left all his property, amounting about £20,000, to the servant Schneider. The representatives of Tomlet claimed that the will should be annulled, on the ground that undue influence had been brought to bear on Tomlet, who, moreover,

they alleged, was not in a fit state of mind to make a will. On the side of Marguerite Schneider, a long procession of Alsatians, consisting of shoe-makers, municipal guards, sellers of chouchouets, &c., supported the legality of the will. Strange to say, contrary to the arguments of the Procureur Imperial, the tribunal rejected the demand for annulling the will, and adjudged the succession to the representatives of the old Alsatian home, Marguerite Schneider.

The following anecdote exhibits the late Emperor of Russia in a new character, and it also records one of the most happy escapes from an awkward position that wit and presence of mind might afford. Some years ago there was a very celebrated comic actor at St. Petersburg, named Martineff. He had the most extraordinary powers of wit, and was so great a favourite with the public, as sometimes to venture interpolations of his own, instead of following the advice of Hamlet to his players, to "speak no more than is set down for them." The Emperor had a High Chamberlain, or person filling a similar office, named Polofsky. Whether for fun or malice, Martineff, while performing, contrived to let fly some puns against the great man, which were warmly received by the audience. The consequence was, that as soon as the play was over, the actor found himself in the custody of a guard of soldiers, who took him to prison, where he was told he was to be confined for a fortnight. Not content with this, Polofsky either told the Emperor himself, or contrived that it should come to his ears, that the player had actually had the presumption to indulge in imitations of his Imperial Majesty. On his liberation, Martineff went to pay his respects as usual; and the Emperor told him of the accusation, which he denied. "Well," said the Emperor, "if you never did so, let me have an imitation of myself now. We know you can do so if you choose." This was an awkward and dangerous position for the poor actor

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